

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02906 262341Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 OES-06 JUSE-00 SAB-01 DLOS-04

SAL-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 SS-15 COME-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 /050 W

----- 127287

O R 262258Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7524

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 2906

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN REQUEST FOR SEIZURE OF US FLAG VESSEL

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED PHONE CALL AND DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 26) REQUESTING THAT US AUTHORITIES IN CANAL ZONE ARREST AND TURN OVER TO PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES THE US TUNA BOAT "VOYAGER." BASIS FOR REQUEST IS PANAMANIAN ALLEGATION THAT "VOYAGER" WAS FISHING ILLEGALLY ON APRIL 25 IN PANAMANIAN WATERS 45 MILES OF THE COAST OF CHIRIQUI AND FLED INTO CANAL ZONE WATERS WHEN APPROACHED BY PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD PATROL BOAT. THE VOYAGER IS PRESENTLY ANCHORED IN CZ WATERS OFF FLAMENCO ISLAND.

2. PANCANAL GENERAL COUNSEL HAS ASSERTED HE KNOWS OF NO LEGAL WAY THE CZG COULD SEIZE AND HOLD THE VOYAGER AND ITS CAPTAIN AS REQUESTED BY THE PANAMANIAN.

3. IN VIEW OF EXCELLENT PANAMANIAN COOPERATION WITH US AUTHORITIES IN ARRESTING NARCOTICS SUSPECTS AND TURNING THEM OVER TO US AUTHORITIES, WE BELIEVE PANAMANIAN REGARD THIS CASE AS CHANCE FOR US TO REPAY FAVORS IN KIND. IN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 02906 262341Z

THIS CONNECTION DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL RECENT INSTANCE

OF EXCELLENT FONOFF COOPERATION WHEN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VERBALLY AUTHORIZED US AUTHORITIES TO BOARD, SEARCH, AND SEIZE PANAMANIAN REGISTRY VESSEL M/V KAKI IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF US COAST (STATE 82495 AND PREVIOUS). THIS AUTHORIZATION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOR USE IN US COURTS.

4. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, IS ALSO UNAWARE OF ANY LEGAL BASIS OR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE CZ GOVERNOR TO SEIZE THE BOAT, ITS CARGO AND CAPTAIN. UNFORTUNATELY US FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH GOP IN THIS INSTANCE COULD CAUSE PANAMANIAN TO DAMPEN IF NOT HALT THEIR COOPERATION WITH US AUTHORITIES IN NARCOTICS MATTERS.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED IN THIS MATTER.

JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, ARRESTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PANAMA02906
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760158-0521
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760420/aaaaaqxb.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAMANIAN REQUEST FOR SEIZURE OF US FLAG VESSEL
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PN, US, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006